

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2761

INFO CINCPAC

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6747

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TH

SUBJECT: THANAT ON U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: APRIL 29 BANGKOK POST CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT IN WHICH LATTER CRITICIZES US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND AND DISCUSSES LACK OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS FOR US UTILIZED AIRBASED-- EXCEPTING UTAPAO. AFTER EXCERPTING PASSAGES IN ARTICLE, THIS MESSAGES REPEATS FOR THE RECORD RELEVANT PORTION OF RTG ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARCH 22, 1967.7, WHICH REPORTED AGREEMENT OF USE OF UTAPAO. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER HEADLINE " US BASES MUST GO-- THANAT" APRIL 29 BANGKOK POST CARRIES FRONT PAGE ITEM REPORTING PURPORTED INTERVIEW WITH FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN. PIECE DOES NOT REFER TO THANAT' S ARTICLE IN THAI SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW REPORTED SEPTEL.

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E. RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM POST ITEM FOLLOW:

A. THANAT " EXPRESSED STRONG DISAGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE NECESSITY OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THAILAND TO GUARANTEE THE CEASEFIRE IN INDOCHINA AND TO PROVIDE SECURITYFOR THAILAND."

B. THANAT OBJECTED TO USAF UNITS HERE BECAUSE, ALLEGEDLY QUOTING UNNAMED AMERICAN PROGESSOR, " IT IS A FLAGRANT CONTRIDITION OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE, LEADING TO MORAL DETERIORATION."

C. THANAT SAID RTG AND US HAVE NO FORMAL AGREE-MENTS ABOUT THE USE OF THAI BASES EXCEPT IN CASE OF UTAPAO.

D. US HAS CHANGED FROM ANTI- COMMUNISTTO NOGOTIA-TION AND CO- EXISTANCE AND DROPPED COLD WAR STANCE-- " EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF THAIALND."

E. RTG HAS PLACED NO CONDITIONS ON USE OF BASES; THERE IS NO QUID PRO QUO.

F. THANAT SAID " IT IS VERY CHILDISH TO SAY THAT IF THE US REDUCES AID WE WOULD REDUCE COOPERATION."

G. RE ARGUMENT THAT US PRESENCE IS TO GUARANTEE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE, THANAT REPORTEDLY SAID GUARANTEE IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY SIGNATORIES OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND ICCS. AS FOR SECURITY US IS SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE THAIALND, THANAT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT 500,000 GIS UNABLE TO SAVE SVN; US HAD TO OBTAIN HELP FROM CHOU EN- LAI AND USSR TO GET NVN TO PEACE TABLE. " THE BOMBING HAS NOT STOPPED COMMUNISTS FROM REACHING CLOSE TO PHNOM PENH... THAILAND IS ENTERING THE WAR ZONE WITH A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY."

H. THANAT REPORTEDLY STRESSED HE NOT AGAINST US BUT OPPOSES PRESENCE FOREIGN FORCES HERE, "... A SIGN THAT WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY FREE AND INDEPENDENT."
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4. COMMENT: STATEMENT IN PARA 3, F, ABOVE IS OBVIOUS SLAP AT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT WHO MADE A JOKING REFERENCE IN MARCH 19 NEWS CONFERENCE TO A DECREASE IN COOPERATION WITH US IF US ASSISTANCE IS REDUCED.

5. FOR RECORD PURPOSE RE THIS MESSAGE AND BANGKOK 6726 WE REPEAT HERE THE RELENT PASSAGE FROM THE MARCH 22, 1967, RTVANNOUNCE-MENT REPORTING US USE OF UTAPAO RTAFB: QUOTE... THE AGREEMENT

TO ALLOW THE USE OF INSTALLATIONS AND FACILITIES AT
UTAPAO WILL REMAIN IN FORCE SO LONG ONLY AS IN THE
OPINION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT, THE THREAT OF COMMUNIST
AGGRESSION AGAINST FREE NATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
STILL CONTINUES. END QUOTE. AS IS OBVIOUS, THE GENERAL
FORMULATION DOES NOT TIE SUCH USE TO THE CEASEFIRE IN
SVN.
UNGER

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